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FARM FACTS

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IN THIS ISSUE

June Acreage	1, 2
U.S. Hog Inventory	3
U.S. Chicken & Eggs	3
Grain Stocks	3
May Prices Received	4
Weekly Broilers	4

Tennessee Farmers Report Crop Acreage For 2000

Based on a June 1 survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee farmers planted more corn and cotton this year compared to 1999 while reducing both soybean and burley tobacco acreage. Gene Danekas, State Statistician for Tennessee gave several reasons for the changes. "Prior to planting, farmers were looking at commodity prices and long term weather forecasts to help in their decision making. At that time, corn and cotton prices looked better than soybean prices did; as a result, more acreage shifted from soybeans into these two commodities." Danekas went on to explain how the drought advisory issued earlier in the year for Tennessee affected farmer decisions. "Producers remember how the soybean crop was devastated last year during mid-summer. Therefore many chose cotton because of it's ability to withstand dry conditions and corn because it matures earlier than soybeans, giving it a better chance of missing a potential mid-summer drought." Danekas also noted that farmers had excellent weather conditions this spring, and most were able to fulfill all of their corn and cotton planting intentions. This has not been the case in previous years when flooding forced farmers to put acreage into soybeans due to it's longer planting window. Survey results show that farmers planted 600,000 acres of **cotton** this year, up 30,000 from a year ago. **Corn** acreage increased 20,000 from 1999 and currently stands at 650,000 acres. This combined 50,000 acre increase came directly from **soybeans** which are forecast at 1.20 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 350,000 acres of **winter wheat** for grain this year, while **burley tobacco** acreage is estimated at 45,000 acres, down 18 percent from last year and a direct result of the

reduction in quota. The survey also showed that no-till usage in 2000 increased sharply from a year ago, possibly due to rising fuel costs.

Cotton Acreage Up For Second Straight Year

Between 1995 and 1998 the State's cotton acreage dropped 250,000 acres, but has bounced back over the last two years. Factors such as price, improved seed, and the boll weevil eradication program have all played a major roll in cotton's growing appeal. Cotton acreage for 2000 is forecast at 600,000 acres, up 30,000 from last year and the highest level in the State since 1995. Weather conditions during planting were favorable, and most producers got their crop planted on time. Insects have been a problem this spring, but the crop is currently rated in mostly good-to-fair condition.

Corn Acreage Rebounds From 1999

After reaching a nine year low in 1999, corn acreage in the Volunteer State increased slightly this year with an estimated 650,000 planted acres. An unseasonably warm Spring allowed planting to get off to a good start, but producers did battle soggy field conditions early on. Despite the limited setbacks, growers made excellent progress and planting was virtually completed by the end of May. Weed and insect pressure have been fairly light, but dry conditions during the first part of June did cause some concern. Since that time, most areas have received rain and the majority of the crop is in good-to-excellent condition.

Soybean Acreage Down 4 Percent From Last Year

Increases in both corn and cotton acreage came at the direct expense of soybeans. Soybean acreage is estimated at 1.20 million acres, 50,000 acres less than the previous two years and the lowest level in the State since 1996. Price, weather conditions during planting, and the constant threat of drought were all factors leading to the shift in acreage. Producers are currently planting their double crop soybeans behind harvested wheat fields, and planting should be completed within the next two weeks if conditions remain favorable. Eighty-seven percent of the crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition.

Burley Acreage Down Sharply

The 45 percent cut in quota for the 2000 crop year has led to higher lease rates which in turn has led to an 18 percent drop in burley acreage from a year ago. Total acreage is estimated at 45,000 acres, 10,000 acres less than 1999 and the lowest level in Tennessee since 1995. On the other hand, allotment increases for both dark fire-cured and dark air-cured have led to an acreage increase for these varieties. Type 22, Eastern dark-fired and Type 23, Western dark-fired are estimated at 7,600 and 610 acres, respectively. Type 35, Dark air-cured is estimated at 630 acres. Ideal weather conditions allowed transplanting to progress slightly ahead of normal this year, but some growers had to re-set fields due to dry conditions. Insect and disease pressure has been fairly light this spring.

Another Excellent Year For Wheat Producers

For the second straight year, most wheat growers have something to smile about. Warm, dry conditions during the month of June have allowed producers to make excellent progress with harvest and most are reporting above average yields. Disease pressure was fairly normal this year, with no major crop damage reported. Farmers planted 550,000 acres of wheat last fall, up 50,000 acres from 1999. From the total planted acres, 350,000 were harvested for grain. The remaining 200,000 acres were planted as a cover crop, harvested for hay, or cut for silage. The next yield forecast will be released July 12.

Hay Acreage Reach Record Levels

Good weather conditions, coupled with fears of another summer drought, led Tennessee farmers to cut a record number of hay acreage this spring. Based on survey results, 35,000 acres of alfalfa will be harvested during 2000, up 5000 acres from a year earlier. In addition, 1.90 million acres of all other hay will be harvested, up nearly 3 percent from a year earlier. Farmers cut more hay this spring than normal in case another dry summer prevents them from getting additional cuttings later in the year. Most report good quality and better than expected yields.

Planted and Harvested Acres of Principal Crops: Tennessee & U.S., 1999-2000

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	2000 / 1999
	1,000 Acres		Percent		
Tennessee					
Corn	630	650	570	590	104
Cotton	570	600	565	¹	-
Soybeans	1,250	1,200	1,190	1,160	97
Winter Wheat	500	550	340	350	103
Sorghum	20	20	18	16	89
Hay, all	-	-	1,880	1,935	103
Alfalfa	-	-	30	35	117
All other	-	-	1,850	1,900	103
Tobacco, all	-	-	63.17	53.84	85
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	7.00	7.60	109
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	.57	.61	107
Burley (31)	-	-	55.00	45.00	82
One sucker (35)	-	-	.60	.63	105
United States					
Corn	77,431	79,579	70,537	73,088	104
Cotton ²	14,874	15,552	13,425	¹	-
Soybeans	73,780	74,501	72,476	73,474	101
Winter Wheat	43,431	43,349	35,572	35,401	100
Sorghum	9,288	8,805	8,544	8,110	95
Hay, all	-	-	63,160	62,181	98
Alfalfa	-	-	23,985	23,767	99
All other	-	-	39,175	38,414	98
Tobacco, all	-	-	647.16	493.84	76
Eastern dark-fired (22)	-	-	10.75	11.60	108
Western dark-fired (23)	-	-	4.07	4.41	108
Burley (31)	-	-	303.60	201.00	66
One sucker (35)	-	-	3.45	3.63	105

¹ Estimate to be released August 12, 2000. ² U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent: U. S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2000, was 59.4 million head. This was 2 percent below June 1999, but 2 percent above March 1, 2000. Breeding inventory, at 6.23 million head, was down 4 percent from June 1, 1999, but up slightly from March 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year, but 2 percent above last quarter.

The March-May 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.8 million head, was 2 percent less than 1999, and 4 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.91 million head, 3 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.89 pigs saved per litter for the March-May period, compared to 8.80 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.80 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the June-August 2000 quarter, 2 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 7 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for September-November 2000, at 2.86 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period last year, but 4 percent below 1998.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.

U.S. Egg Production Up 2 Percent: U.S. egg production totaled 7.11 billion during May 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.94 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.97 billion table eggs and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 68.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2000 averaged 327 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during May 1999. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up slightly from 2,166 eggs in May 1999. All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 2000 totaled 325 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 325 million layers consisted of 266 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.83 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2000, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 69.8 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.66 billion eggs during May, up 2 percent from May 1999. The average number of layers during May, at 306 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., June 1, 2000 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee ¹			United States		
	June 1, 1999	March 1, 2000	June 1, 2000	June 1, 1999	March 1, 2000	June 1, 2000
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn				2,257,000	3,300,000	2,029,800
Wheat				277,710	423,180	226,780
Soybeans				458,000	730,000	370,000
Grain Sorghum				27,400	51,700	27,300
Oats				40,700	53,900	36,000
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	4,000	12,020	4,047	1,359,225	2,301,958	1,557,112
Wheat	2,513	4,918	2,795	668,208	992,115	723,293
Soybeans	1,595	3,006	1,387	390,573	666,233	404,996
Grain Sorghum	---	162	69	88,680	173,932	99,682
Oats	180	111	106	40,678	48,500	40,027
Total Stocks						
Corn				3,616,225	5,601,958	3,586,912
Wheat				945,918	1,415,295	950,073
Soybeans				848,573	1,396,233	774,996
Grain Sorghum				116,080	225,632	126,982
Oats				81,378	102,400	76,027

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks, other than soybeans, are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., June 2000 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		June	May	June	June	May	June
		1999	2000 ¹	2000 ²	1999	2000 ¹	2000 ²
Dollars Per Unit							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.28	2.40	2.40	2.32	2.44	2.42
Corn	bu.	2.31	2.33	2.10	1.97	2.10	1.81
Cotton Lint	lb.	.593	.456	.435 ³	.546	.473	.481 ³
Soybeans	bu.	4.43	5.30	5.10	4.44	5.19	4.91
All hogs	cwt.	33.50	47.30	47.10	34.10	48.50	47.90
Sows	cwt.	30.00	41.00	39.00	28.00	39.30	35.00
Barrows & gilts	cwt.	33.90	48.00	48.00	34.50	49.00	48.60
All beef cattle	cwt.	58.00	68.20	68.20	63.70	69.40	67.90
Steers/heifers	cwt.	73.00	87.00	87.00	66.70	73.20	71.30
Cows	cwt.	35.40	40.00	40.00	36.70	38.90	39.20
Calves	cwt.	81.00	100.00	97.00	89.00	107.00	103.00
All milk	cwt.	14.00	---	---	13.10	12.00	12.20
Fluid grade	cwt.	14.10	---	---	13.20	12.10	12.20
Manufacture grade	cwt.	10.30	---	---	12.00	10.10	10.40

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month.

Broiler Eggs Set Down 2 Percent: Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 175 million eggs during the week ending July 1, 2000. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 2 Percent: Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 150 million chicks for meat production during the week ending July 1, 2000. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through July 1, 2000, were 3.82 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.